

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Mr. Tennyson, it is rumored, is busy upon a new volume of poems, which will soon make its appearance.

—Mr. Wirt Sikes, U.S. Consul at Cardiff, is preparing a book on the legends, myths, fairy tales, and folk-lore of Wales.

—Longfellow's poem, "The Masque of Pandora," has been set to music by Mrs. Meadows White, and the overture was recently played at the new Philharmonic Society concert in London.

—The late Mr. MacGahan, it is said in the London *Athenaeum*, left behind him, corrected for publication, as much of his experience in Bulgaria and the Russo-Turkish war as will form a memorial volume.

—Mr. Kaneko, the author of the clever Japanese story in the last *Atlantic*, is a young Japanese of great intelligence, a graduate this year of the Harvard Law School. He returns to Japan the present month.

—Sojourner Truth, the old colored woman who is somewhere about 100 years old—old enough to have been long a slave in York State two or three generations ago—is still vigorous enough to travel and give an occasional lecture.

—Bob Ingersoll has sailed for Europe with his family to collect material in Scotland for a lecture on Robert Burns, and has contracted with Redpath for 100 nights, at \$25,000 and expenses, after his return about the 1st of October.

—Charles Reade is 64 years old; Jacob Abbott, 75; Edmond About, 50; William T. Adams (Oliver Optic), 56; T. B. Aldrich, 42; Berthold Auerbach, 66; George Bancroft, 78; Robert Browning, 66; Carlyle, 83; S. L. Clemens (Mark Twain), 43; G. W. Curtis, 51; R. H. Dana, 91; Darwin, 69; Disraeli, 73; Hepworth Dixon, 57; Emerson, 58; J. A. Froude, 60; W. E. Gladstone, 69; Bret Harte, 39; J. G. Holland, 59; Dr. Holmes, 69; Julia Ward Howe, 59; Thomas Hughes, 55; T. H. Huxley, 53; George Eliot, 58; Longfellow, 71; Benson J. Lossing, 65; Donald G. Mitchell, 56; Max Muller, 55; James Parton, 56; Mayne Reid, 60; John G. Saxe, 62; Mrs. Stowe, 66; Tennyson, 69; Whittier, 71; Wilkie Collins, 53; Swinburne, 41; Wm. Black, 37; M. F. Tupper, 68; C. D. Warner, 49; W. D. Howells, 41.

Science and Industry.

—Oil made from peanuts closely resembles olive oil.

—In Germany the finest flour is being made with mill-stones of glass.

—A society has been formed in Paris to organize a series of visits to all the chief museums, exhibitions, and public monuments, under the guidance of well instructed lecturers.

—In France architects and carpenters are legally held responsible for a period of ten years after the completion of a structure for total or partial loss occasioned by defective plans or work.

—France, so fortunate in its wine yield since the war, is now a heavy sufferer. The phylloxera has already appeared in 34 departments and done damage computed at \$200,000,000. Burgundy has escaped as yet.

—Ice machines are now made by which ice can be manufactured at \$1 per ton. A cake weighing 140 pounds was exposed to a hot sun five hours on a street in Cincinnati, recently, when the thermometer was at 92, and lost only about half an inch on each side.

—To restore the softness and pliancy of leather which has become hard by having been wet, apply neatfoot oil and rub it in. Castor oil is a good substitute for neatfoot oil for softening leather belts, boots and harness. The best oil for harness is one quart of neatfoot oil, four ounces beef tallow and three tablespoonfuls lampblack; adding four ounces of beeswax for use in summer weather.

—Wayne County, New York, produces about two-thirds of the pepper-mint crop of the country. It is grown on black ash swamps, which have been thoroughly underdrained, from roots which are lanted as hops are. When cut, it is partially dried and taken to a still where the oil is extracted. The oil sells from \$2.50 to \$5 per pound, and when it brings \$3 the crop is a paying one. About 70,000 pounds are used annually in producing medicines, manufacturing candies and making cordials.

School and Church.

—In New York the Irish language is now taught at an expense of only 25 cents a month to the student.

—Two Chinese young men are preparing for the Protestant Episcopal ministry at San Francisco, Cal.

—The three chief Presbyterian denominations of Scotland raised, last year, \$6,640,000 by voluntary subscription.

—The New Testament Revision Company recently met at New Haven and completed the first eleven chapters of Revelation.

—The Baptist have ordained a Chinaman at San Francisco, another Celestial now located at Portland, Oregon, assisting in the ceremony; these converts are not asked to abandon Confucius.

—The Catholic papers report 67 conversions to the faith in England within a fortnight, among whom are 11 clergymen of the Establishment; Earl Percy, heir to the Dukedom of Northampton, and Lord St. Asaph, son of the late Earl of Ashburham.

—The Rev. Dr. J. A. O. Clark, commissioned by the Bishops of the Southern Methodist Church to collect funds for a Wesley memorial church at Savannah, Ga., the scene of John Wesley's first labors on this continent, has sailed to England on a collecting tour.

—A Gospel Garden is the latest religious novelty. It has been started by the Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., at Seventh Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, New York, and consists of an apartment fitted up with a fountain, floral baskets, urns of plants and whatever will give it an inviting appearance. To the ceiling are attached long linen fans, which are kept all the time in motion and supply a cool and refreshing atmosphere. Services will be held every night and on Sunday.

—The fifth Episcopal Church Congress will be held this year at Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 15 to 18. The subjects for discussion are: "The Interpretation of the Bible in Relation to the Present Condition of Learning and Science;" "The Novel in its Influence on Modern Life;" "The New Testament Doctrine of Absolution;" "The Sunday Question;" "Mutual Relations of Labor and Capital;" and "Christ in the Personal Life."

—The problem of co-education of the races has been successfully solved at Berea (Ky.) College, which is attended by white students of all classes, who mingle with colored students without the least display of race feeling. Both races, which attend the college in almost equal numbers, recite together and have exactly the same privileges. The last commencement exercises of the institution were attended by visitors drawn about equally from each race.

—It will be a surprise to many to learn that there is at Pekin, China, a college modeled after English institutions. It has been in existence 14 years. Since 1869 its President has been A. P. Martin, of this country, who writes encouragingly of its future, although it had a struggling existence for the first few years. At first it was regarded with hostility and jealousy by conservatives about the throne, but it has already developed into an institution of importance. A curriculum extending over eight years has been established. Its students, now upward of a hundred, are educated at Government expense, to fill official stations.

Haps and Mishaps.

—Lydia Berry, a charming young lady of Charlestown, near Boston, Mass., was fatally poisoned, it is supposed, by wearing striped stockings.

—A daughter of Thaddeus Frost, of Boston, about 27 years of age, committed suicide, while insane, by pouring kerosene over her head and clothes, and then setting fire to it.

—A young man named Amos Gregor, of Fredericksburg, O., was shot through the head and instantly killed while blowing into the muzzle of his gun to see if it was loaded.

—Near New Paris, Ind., an 8-year-old son of John Brumbach, while fooling with a revolver, shot an elder brother through the head, killing him instantly.

—James Quann, a tramp printer, was run over and killed on the railroad near Vincennes, Ind., while intoxicated. His foot caught in a frog and he was unable to extricate it, before the train was upon him.

—Samuel Mesick, aged 21, of Danville Junction, Ky., shot himself through the head because his girl's parents objected to his keeping company with her. He is said to have been a young man of good habits and well connected.

—At Port Huron, Mich., John Holt and his son were removing a piece of machinery weighing 600 pounds down a flight of stairs in his grist-mill, when it slipped from their hold, knocking the father to the floor below, striking him on the head and smashing his skull.

—Joseph Lewis, a farmer living one mile north of Bronson, Mich., while mowing a marsh, met with an accident which resulted in his death. While at work on the marsh his team and mower began to sink. Getting off the machine to lighten it, he forgot to throw it out of gear. His horses floundering, threw him down in front, the knife coming in contact with and cutting off his foot just above the ankle.

Foreign Notes.

—Englishmen are all dreaming of going to Cyprus and making money there.

—The Spanish Government has just secured the extradition from France of a mysterious lady of high rank, said to have been engaged with several illustrious accomplices in a theft of \$4,000,000.

—The death is announced of the Marquis de Vibray, one of the leading agriculturists of France. He was proprietor of the Chateau de Cheverny, near Blois, and reclaimed a large tract of land which was at one time waste; he was also a very eminent geologist and a great patron of art.

—The Countess Iona, daughter of the Austrian diplomat, Count Andrássy, was lately betrothed to Prince Alfred Montenuovo. The Prince is a grandson of the Archduchess Maria Louisa, who married the first Napoleon, and, subsequently, the Austrian Count Neipperg. From this second marriage the Prince is descended. His father, the Prince William, is still living.

—It was recently announced, apparently upon good authority, that a marriage had been arranged between Prince Louis Napoleon, son of Emperor Napoleon III, and Princess Thyra, third daughter of Christian IX, King of Denmark. The report has since been contradicted.

—Lord Beaconsfield occupied with his suite at the Kaiserhof, during the late Berlin Congress, 63 rooms at \$7,000 a month, and his food bill was \$10,000. He gave \$300 to the waiters. The correspondent of the London *Times* took \$3,600 with him for expenses, and expended \$3,440, in addition to \$2,410 for telegrams. The wife of M. Blowitz of the Congress induced her husband to obtain the signature of each member upon a fan which she intrusted to him. She considers that she possesses a treasure of especial value.

Odds and Ends.

—Fashionable mother—"Maria, I'm almost discouraged; how many times have I told you not to say later, but pertater?"

—There is no brighter moment in the life of a young lady of ton than when the happy discovery is made that she can at last balance a pair of eye-glasses on her nose without squinting.

—It is now very fashionable for seashore belles to walk on the beach in company with their mothers. This seems to prove to the world that they are young and thoughtless, instead of being thirty-five years old and on a still hunt for husbands.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—Don't tell a man you sweat. It is vulgar. Inform him that you are being deprived of the saline and oleaginous fluids of your material substance through the excretories of your pellucid cuticle, with a sensible condensation of moisture upon the superficial exterior.

—A cockney inquired at the post-office the other day for a letter for "Enery Mogden." He was told there was none. "Look 'ere," he replied a little angrily; "You've hexamined a hodd letter for my name. It don't commence with a haitch; it begins with a ho. Look in the 'ole that's got the ho's."

WHY, O WHY?

Why asks a fellow when he meets His neighbor, "What's the news?" Why sits a woman on the floor To button up her shoes? Why is it women all prefer A bowl-bath to a plunge? Why is it they prefer a rag For washing to a sponge? Why is it women groan and moan Of what they have to do, Yet gladly walk a score of miles To match a shade of blue?—*St. Louis Journal.*

—A gentleman desires a situation as President or Treasurer of some manufacturing corporation. Is not a member of any church, temperance society, or lodge, not of sufficient consequence to be generally respected, and does not descend from any old family. Never has held any office, is not an eminent citizen, and can bring other equally strong recommendations if desired. There being an extraordinary opportunity for corporations, applications will be considered in the order received. Address, etc.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

Death of Missionaries in China.

A letter from Pekin, June 4, 1878, announces the death of Rev. P. R. Hunt of the American Board's North China Mission, and of several missionaries connected with other societies. Mr. Hunt was seized with typhus fever on the 19th of May and died on the 30th. He was born at Arlington, Vt., January 30, 1816, and, after learning the printer's trade, went in 1839, with his wife, to Madras, where he took charge of the printing establishment of the American Board, and managed it with great success for 27 years. In 1866, on the relinquishment of the Madras Mission, he and his wife returned to the United States, and after a stay of a few months went to North China in 1868 as Missionaries of the Board. Miss Dedrickson, who had been in China for about a year under the auspices of the Church Mission of London, and was preparing to take charge of a girls' boarding-school, died of the fever on the 11th of May. Her death was followed on the 18th by that of Miss L. A. Campbell of the American Methodist Mission, who had been in China two years, and was an industrious laborer in the girls' boarding-school of the Mission with which she was connected. Between these two deaths came that of Rev. William N. Hall at Tientsin. Mr. Hall was a missionary of the English Methodists, New Connection, and died on the 14th of May, also of typhus fever. On the 25th of May, Rev. J. S. Barradale of the London Mission at Tientsin, died of the same disease, his wife having been carried off by it during the December previous. Rev. Albert Whitney of the American Presbyterian Mission died on the 25th of April at Shansi, where he had gone to aid in the work of distributing alms to the famine-stricken people.

Sharp Shooting.

There is a piece of rock standing on the ridge running up the South Mountain at Egan Canyon. One morning in 1863 an Indian was discovered standing by this rock, calmly surveying the scene below, and particularly the overland station to the west, then garrisoned by a number of soldiers. He was so far off that he enjoyed the excitement produced by his appearance, and made a very significant gesture of derision and contempt for the soldiers. One of them determined to reply to his salutation, and fired at him from the station with a rifle, and, strange to say, with wonderful accuracy of aim, shot him through the head. His remains were buried behind the rock on the mountain; and in 1873 his skull, disturbed in some way from its resting place, was exhibited among the miners at Egan as a relic of the war and of the disaster which overtook the Indian, who was ignorant of, or conceitedly despised the virtues of long range. It was a shot of nearly 2,000 feet.—*Cherry Creek (Nev.) Independent.*

Where all the Flies Come From.

Flies are artificially propagated in New Jersey, near Paterson, where an association of men have invested capital, and are running the works to their full capacity.

Flies are incubated from eggs, by an artificial hatching arrangement, and the young flies are taught all the deviltry they know right in the factory. Some will look upon this statement as false, and wonder why any association of men should engage in the artificial propagation of the fly. We will explain. It is well known that flies die at the end of the season, and if it were not for artificial propagation, there would be none the second season. The parties that are engaged in this industry, are also sole manufacturers of fly-paper and fly-traps. We trust that the object is now plain. In order to sell their paper and traps, it is necessary to have game to catch. The gentlemen had engaged largely in the manufacture of fly-paper and fly-traps before they knew that flies only lasted one season, and after a year of success they found bankruptcy staring them in the face, as it was probable they would not sell a sheet of paper the next year. So they organized the "Great American Artificial Fly Incubating Association of New Jersey," and issued a million dollars worth of stock.

We have not room to describe the hatching of flies, in the *Sun*, but it is like hatching chickens by steam. Some of the best old flies are kept to lay eggs, and eggs are placed on cards and put into an oven. They hatch out in twenty minutes, and are ready in half an hour to learn the business. First they are taught to wade in butter, swim in cream, and to get into things around the kitchen. Then the young flies are taken to a dormitory, where men and women, engaged for the purpose, are pretending to sleep. An old fly and a hundred young ones are placed in each room, and the old fly, after lighting on shirt bosoms or female white goods, in order to teach the young flies the noble art of punctuation, begins to get in its work on the sleeper. The old fly, after seating the young flies on cuffs and collars, calls "Attention!" and after buzzing around a little, lights on the sleeper's nose. The sleeper pretends to be mad, and slaps at the fly—this is a mere matter of form, however, for if a sleeper engaged by the association kills an old stool fly, it is deducted from his or her salary. As the old fly gets away the young flies laugh and want to try it themselves. Then the old fly lights up on the lady sleeper's big toe and proceeds deliberately to walk up her foot, ankle, and calf, occasionally stopping to bite. This is very trying to the alleged sleepers, causing nervousness, and a twitching of the muscles, but they must not injure the fly. The little flies notice every thing, and after the old fly has caroused around, and tickled and buzzed, then the young flies are allowed to practice on them. The persons practiced on get \$6 a day and board, as it is a very particular and trying situation.

Then comes the expensive business of distributing flies throughout the country. Formerly it was done through book agents and lightning-rod peddlers, but that was found too expensive, so the association originated the idea of sending out regular agents, called tramps, to introduce the flies. The first year only about 10,000 tramps were sent out, but the business has grown to such huge proportions that it is estimated that this year the association has out half a million tramps, leaving flies around. They go from house to house begging, and before they leave they manage to drop a few flies. Each tramp has a card with a million young flies on. After he has partaken of his meal and the woman of the house is out after a shot-gun or a dog to drive him away, he slips his hand up his sleeve and tears off a piece of card containing perhaps 10,000 young flies and drops it in the wood-box, or in some convenient place. That is enough to start on, as the flies breed rapidly. The next day the woman will wonder "where on airth all them flies come from."

The company has distributing points all over the country. Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul being among them, where the tramps go once a month after a new supply. A card will last a tramp 30 days. The introduction of the fly-paper and the fly-traps is easier, as the articles are sent directly to the druggists, who send them to the consumers. Stock in the association is worth an immense amount, paying a quarterly dividend of 20 per cent. The only way that the fly nuisance can be abated is to kill the tramps as fast as they enter a community, or destroy the manufactory at New Jersey. The *Sun* has exposed the nefarious business; now let the people rise up and crush it out of existence.—*Milwaukee Sun.*

Last week the proprietor of the leading soda-water fountain on Jefferson Street took up and canceled our annual pass. We do not regret this act on his part. On the contrary, we are rather glad of it, because a conscientious regard for the public safety and a fine sense of our duty in such matters was just impelling us to say that fountain soda is composed of sawdust, gravel, old glue, aqua-fortis, leather chips, tan-bark, iron filings, marble dust, sand, river water, red ink, orange peel, yellow soap, sirup of rhubarb, ammonia, fusel oil, hoof parings, scrap-iron, soot, lard oil, lamp-black, boiled tallow and Indian turnip. Thousands of people have drunk fountain soda. We are no alarmist, but—where are those people now?—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

A 15-year-old son of Jas. Looney, a farmer living near Ada, O., had both legs cut off by a mowing-machine.

A Peripatetic Teacher of Arithmetic.

"Gentlemen, this is the new science of arithmetic," said a short and pompous individual, dressed in a broadcloth suit, white vest, and silk hat, who was haranguing a curious crowd on Washington Street yesterday afternoon. He had a better make-up than the common run of itinerant peddlers, and he spoke from an open carriage, upon the back seat of which was a huge stack of pamphlets.

"I don't like to call myself a benefactor of mankind," continued the orator, "because it would sound egotistical, and I am only a student, a scholar of humble pretensions; but I may say without boasting that I have devoted a long life to the pursuit of mathematics. There are people who pretend to say that arithmetic is an exact science, and that there is nothing discoverable in its certain and known quantities, but they are poor idiots who are content to follow in the beaten track of their illustrious but common-minded forefathers. Yes, gentlemen, I am proud to say that I stand here to-day as the inventor or discoverer of a new system of mathematics. I can show any man in a few minutes a method of lightning calculation that would astonish the old-fogy savants of former ages."

The silvery-tongued speaker here produced a small blackboard, upon which he traced rapidly with chalk the following figures:

8310297646

"I will show you how to perform a sum in addition," said he, and continued chalking down figures until he had enough to completely fill his blackboard, whereupon he proceeded to set down the sum total without the least hesitancy, to the astonishment of the lookers-on. The table when completed was as follows:

8310297646
1359082368
1089702353
3208764013
6791235986
2754320854
7245679145

31359082365

Of course the surprise lay in the rapidity with which the man drew his figures and performed the addition, the latter operation being apparently done from left to right instead of in the usual manner.

"I have the whole secret in these pamphlets, which contain, besides, a vast amount of interesting scientific matter," said the speaker, and proceeded to sell copies of his books at the rate of 25 cents each, easily disposing of a large number within a very few minutes.

The principle of the fraud, for it was a fraud, consisted in the wily peddler taking advantage of the peculiar properties of the number 9. It has long been known among mathematicians that this figure is capable of many strange feats, among them that of the itinerant peddler—being prominent. It can be easily explained. Put down two rows of figures, the sum of whose respective numbers shall be 9, thus:

8310297646
1089702353
9999999999

Out of the large sum given above, and used by the peddler to illustrate his theory, eliminate the second row from the top, and it will be seen that the successive rows when added together, make nothing but nines. The total, with the second row eliminated, would be

29999999997

Now add the second row

1359082368

and the result is, of course,

31359082365,

or the second row with a prefix of 3 and an addition of 97 to the last two figures. The rule holds in every case, no matter how large or small the sum, and is to the effect that in adding up it is only necessary to write first the number of couplets (in the above there are three); then set down simply the numbers that are given in the inserted row (which may consist of any numbers according to fancy), and at the end subtract the number of couplets from the last figure in the inserted row. A little practice, renders this work easy. It is in reality nothing but a trick, and is valueless in ordinary computation.—*Chicago Tribune.*

In 873 Europe underwent a visitation of grasshoppers far worse than that experienced here. They are referred to in Spanish and German monastic archives, and are described as having hidden the sun, and devoured crops on 100 acres in one hour. After devastating France they were supposed to have perished in the Atlantic.

At the Baptist Church in Manchester, Va., during a protracted meeting, a young gentleman named Andrews occupied a seat in the window. He lost his balance and fell to the ground, a distance of 30 feet, mashing his skull, it is feared, fatally. A young lady in the congregation fainted, and the two incidents came well nigh producing a panic.

Semiradzky, the great Polish painter, who is attracting so much attention in Rome now, is about 35. He is a true Pole in appearance and manner. He is tall, slender, has dark hair and eyes; his face has strongly marked features and all the Slavic subtlety of expression. His manners are very charming.

Lambrequins of gray linen are made for mantles, for windows, baskets and brackets, and are ornamented with applique cloths cut to represent storks, butterflies grasshoppers, and Japanese figures.